United Nations

Centre against Apartheid

Notes and Documents

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# STATEMENT BY MR. JUSTICE R. J. GOLDSTONE ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (11-25 April 1993)

[Note: Judge Richard J. Goldstone, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa, was appointed in 1991 as Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation. He is also the National President of the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (NICRO).

He visited the United States from 11 to 25 April 1993 at the invitation of a non-governmental organization, Medical Education for South African Blacks, Inc. (MESAB). During his stay, he met with various United States officials and had informal discussions at the United Nations on international support for the work of his Commission.]

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United Nations, New York 10017

**STATEMENT BY JUDGE RICHARD GOLDSTONE**
**ISSUED ON 27 APRIL 1993**

During my visit over the past two weeks in New York and Washington, D.C., I was requested to attend a number of meetings at the United Nations, the State Department, with senior members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, the World Bank and leading foundations. The message which I was given at all of these meetings was a readiness to furnish non-partisan assistance for South Africa during the present period of transition and more so when a transitional executive council is in place. Above all, it was the even handed and non-partisan nature of the offers of support which were so evident and which I believe should be brought to the attention of the South African public.

Shortly before departing for New York two weeks ago, I was informed by the South African Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Vernon R. W. Steward, that I had been invited to meet informally with the Security Council and to brief that body on the work of the Commission and the other National Peace Accord structures. Mr. Steward also informed me that he had invited Ambassadors of 22 Member States which are not current members of the Security Council to a luncheon to meet with me. One of the guests at the lunch was Ambassador Gambari of Nigeria. He is the Chairman of the United Nations Special Committee against Apartheid. He invited me to attend an informal meeting of that committee. I agreed to do so and at that meeting met with yet a further nine United Nations Ambassadors as well as representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania at the United Nations. At a private meeting with the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Marker of Pakistan, and at the other meetings I have described, the offers of assistance to South Africa and to my Commission in particular were made in unequivocal and generous terms. Similar offers were made by the members of the United States Congress, leaders of the World Bank and State Department officials. Two aspects of those offers struck me as being important:

1. They reflected that what has been a strong anti-apartheid movement has substantially transformed itself into a very strong pro-democratic South Africa campaign in support of all South Africans, regardless of colour or race, who are working for a peaceful and democratic country.

2. The offers were made solely in a spirit of wanting to be helpful and without being prescriptive. The questions asked again and again were: How can we help South Africa succeed in its transition and, in particular, how best can we help ensure the success of the first democratic government? How can we best ensure the international investment and lines of credit which will bring

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about a positive growth of the economy and enable the people of South Africa to benefit from the transition?

Then I would like to refer to support which was expressed from everyone I met for the structures and activities of the National Peace Accord. There was an appreciation for the fact that, of all the violence-racked countries of the world, South Africa was different because of the thousands of local people who are working together for peace and democracy in our country.

It struck me too that many important and influential people outside South Africa have shifted their position on South Africa faster than have many of us, who live too close to the situation and take breath-taking change for granted.

My strong impression is that there are many good and positive benefits waiting for South Africa as soon as a representative and legitimate transitional executive council is in place and even more so when we have a government of national unity. There is a realization that a representative and democratic government will need the support by investment and otherwise of foreign countries and the international community. There is an eagerness to supply that at the appropriate time. I felt it was important for South Africans to know that there is reason for optimism and that there is an urgency to do all that is required to unleash that support.

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